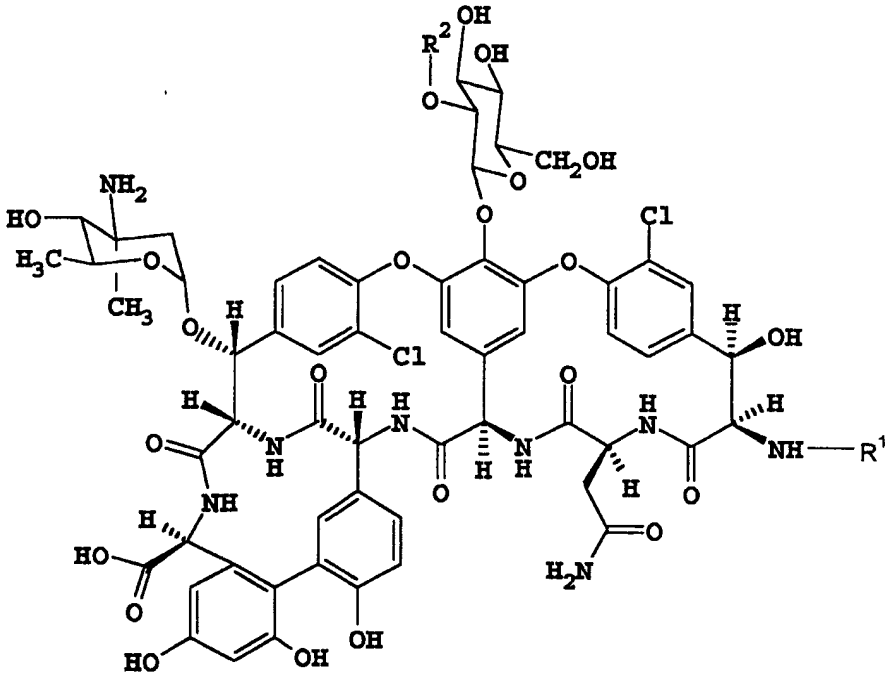
WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of the formula



wherein R^1 represents

alkanoyl of C_2-C_{10} which is unsubstituted, or which is substituted by a phenyl, or which is substituted on other than the α-carbon atom by an amino or protected amino group;

benzoyl or substituted benzoyl bearing one or two substituents each of which is independently halo, loweralkyl of C_1-C_4, loweralkoxy of C_1-C_4 or phenyl;

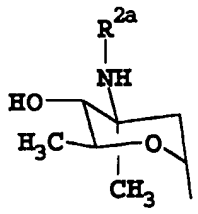
an acyl derived from an α-amino acid or an acyl derived from a protected α-amino acid, said α-amino acid being selected from the group consisting of:

alanine,
arginine,
asparagine,
aspartic acid,
cysteine,
glutamic acid,
glutamine,
glycine,
histidine,
isoleucine,
leucine,
lysine,
methionine,
3-phenylalanine,
3-(p-chlorophenyl)alanine,
proline,
serine,
threonine,
tryptophan and
valine,

in either D- or L-form; or

an acyl derived from an α-amino acid as defined above which bears on the amine a substituent which is alkyl of C_1-C_{10}, benzyl, phenylbenzyl, or p-chlorobenzyl, with the proviso that the acyl derived from N-methyl-D-leucine is excluded;

R^2 represents hydrogen or an epivancosaminyl of the formula



wherein R^{2a} represents hydrogen or $-CH_2-R^3$; and R^3 represents

hydrogen,

alkyl of C_1-C_{11},

alkyl of C_1-C_{11}-R^4, or

R^4-(linker$_{(0\ or\ 1)}$-R^4)$_{0\ or\ 1}$,

wherein each R^4 is independently phenyl or phenyl substituted by one or two substituents, each of which is independently halo, loweralkyl of C_1-C_8, loweralkoxy of C_1-C_8, loweralkylthio of C_1-C_4, or trifluoromethyl, and "linker" is -O-, $-CH_2-$, or $-O-(CH_2)_n-$ wherein n is 1-3;

2. A compound of Claim 1 in which R^2 is an epivancosaminyl radical wherein R^{2a} represents hydrogen,

3. A compound of Claim 2 in which R^2 is an epivancosaminyl radical wherein R^{2a} represents $-CH_2-R^3$.

4. A compound of Claim 3 in which R^3 is p-biphenylyl.

5. A compound of Claim 3 in which R^3 is p-(p-chlorophenyl)phenyl.

6. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of any of Claims 1-5 in combination with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

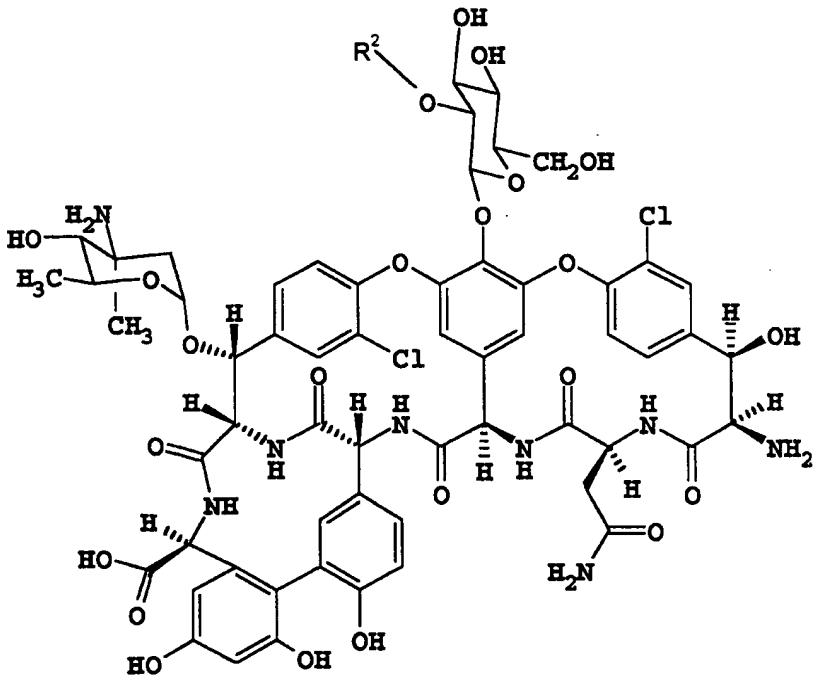
7. A method of treating a bacterial infection in a host comprising the step of administering to the host an effective amount of a formulation of Claim 6.

8. A method of Claim 7 wherein the bacterial infection is attributable to a vancomycin-resistant-enterococcus.

9. A compound of any of Claims 1-5 for use in antibacterial therapy.

10. A compound of any of Claims 1-5 for use in antibacterial therapy against vancomycin-resistant-enterococcus.

11. A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1-5 which comprises reacting a parent glycopeptide of the formula



wherein R^2 is as defined in Claim 1, with an activated ester of an alkanoic acid of the desired R^1 as defined in Claim 1, and if desired, thereafter reductively alkylating the N^{DISACC} amine and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.